

U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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FIELD DIARY

Cuba & Jamaica  
OF  
1913

Mr. E. W. D.

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(Official title.)

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*James Wilson*

Secretary of Agriculture.

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Mapa Gral de Comunicaciones  
de la Republica de Cuba  
J. G. Viña Editor  
Agente Jose Rabell  
Monserrate 2<sup>a</sup> Havana

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The Gundlock birds are  
now in the  
Instituto de Zootecnia y Fisiología

Calle Obispo between  
Calles San Ignacio y Mercadero

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Another natural history  
collection is in

Escuela Pías (or Escuela  
Escolapias, Guanabacoa  
east of Havana on a trolley  
line).



The deer photographed at  
Camaguey was 720 mm.  
standing (at shoulder).

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The birds & hutia  
coll. by Sheldon 7 m.  
out of Camaguey  
were all ♂ except the  
buff-bellied owl which  
was ♀. They were collected  
March 10.

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Saw Redstarts, Oriole,  
yellow chimed grassquits  
& musical grackles at  
Hotel Camaguey, also  
red tailed hawk with owl  
tail very dark chestnutred  
but bird otherwise like

*B. borealis*. In the park  
at Camaguey. Also tree  
ducks, brown with gray & dusky  
stripes on flanks, & several  
sand hill cranes (small  
ones).

Sheldon found birds very  
abundant on his hunt  
near Camaguey saw a  
big brown cuckoo, a  
hummer, 2 kinds of orioles  
& many others.

He counted hutias  
in the woods & saw

16 at ~~from~~ one spot.  
He says the old males become  
pale with age but the ♀ eggs  
are ~~very~~ ~~brown~~ ~~with~~  
dark, much more chestnut  
brownish, some being quite  
mottled.



These animals are extraordinarily abundant in the Camaguey district. Mr. Castillo, the banker at Camaguey told us that he has a 600 acre farm just out of town where these animals do much damage to his garden. ~~One day~~

Presently he made a hunt for them & killed 74 in one day.

On March 11 while on train from Camaguey to Santiago while passing through forest ~~from~~ from 40-80 miles out of Camaguey we saw 10 of them from the train. They were sitting or moving slowly about on the larger

branches of the medium sized trees. They are extremely conspicuous as the trees they frequent are poorly foliated so they are visible at long distance. They usually stand or lie lengthwise on the branches but sometimes sit crosswise like a squirrel - the tail hanging down rat-like. The people report that they are equally common throughout the forests of Cuba & that during the revolution against the Spaniards they supplied an inexhaustible source of food for the rebels who had only to climb the low trees & knock them out with a club or machete as the hutia are extremely slow



and stupid. When caught  
alive they are said to bite  
savagely with their large  
incisors.

In addition to the hutias  
the Canaquey region is  
overrun with large numbers  
of wild dogs which are  
said to have been here before  
the discovery of the island by  
the Spaniards. These dogs  
are very shy but come  
about savanahs at night &  
are extremely destructive to  
domestic fowl, small pigs  
goats etc. They have a short  
yapping howl & are said  
to have longer hair & more  
bushy tail than ordinary  
domestic dogs.



Sierra Maestra ridge has  
an altitude of about 3500-  
4000 ft. & above this rises  
Pico de Turquino with  
alt. of 2420 metros. The  
summit has this form

& is

heavily wooded.  
The south slope of Sierra  
Maestra has pines from  
about 1500 ft - 3000 & then  
red & other trees come in.  
The forest upper slopes are  
heavily covered with Spanish  
moss & other epiphytic plants  
& the ground is covered with  
soft mossy growth.  
Many Ruiseñors (Myadestes)



Birds on upper slopes were different than those on base of mt. Saw no deer nor hutias on top.

Botanist Fernald & Taylor visited the lower slopes of this range & wrote a pamphlet on the plants up to divide. This was about 1906.

To go to Pico Inguirio the best way is to hire a small schooner at Santiago for \$20-30. each way. Go to Chirivico Harbor (= Guama) about 40 miles from Santiago.

The lands about the mt. are in disputed ownership & no permission needed to go on them.

At Guama a storekeeper Antonio Vasquez who can get guides (Edwin A. Whiting) Santiago

who will give letter to Vasquez. ~~Whiting~~ had Inguirio for Pastor & Miguel who were with Whiting on his trip to top of Sierra.

Guides cost about \$1.50 a day & grub.

From Guama it would be best to get horse outfit & pack west along coast to Bayamita village.

From there the crest range can be reached on foot up Bayamito river & then the main peak reached by traveling along crest range to west.



Whiting went to coast  
from Bayamita + his guide  
lived in Guama.

March would be a good  
month (probably the best) it might  
possibly rain in Apr.

Much fog at all times of year.

Jamaica  
Arrived Mch 1/13

Capromys trivicauda said to  
still exist sparingly about base  
of Blue Mts.

Mr. Cundell, Secy Jam. Dist. Ct.

Mongoose reported to be growing  
less in Jam. owing to increase  
of ticks which attack young.

The "Gleaner" Kingston  
Jam. : for Jan 14, 1899  
has ~~been~~ announced bird  
list of Jam. birds by Mr.  
C. B. Taylor



March 22 made a  
motor trip from Kingston  
to St. Ann's Bay. Saw the  
following birds

Turkey Buzzards  
many Grosbeaks  
" Mockingbirds  
Ground dove  
Pigeon  
Grackle  
Crotaphaga



March 30 -

10 m. South of Iruyick Id  
light ship saw ~~1000~~ <sup>1000</sup>?  
And 1 pr ~~Red Throated~~ <sup>Common</sup> Loons  
flying north also from there  
north into Delaware Bay  
Many Herring & Ring Bill Gulls.  
From this light ship north  
20 m. saw ~~1000~~ many red  
throated loons & a large  
number of horned grebes  
a few Black Scoters & 3  
White-winged Scoters.  
Also what appeared to be  
1 Gull not, it had a white  
area extending up over cheeks  
from white area of neck.  
Off Delaware Bay a few  
Bonaparte's Gulls.  
From the light ship north

~~very quite a number~~  
for 20 m. very quite a  
number of white boobys.

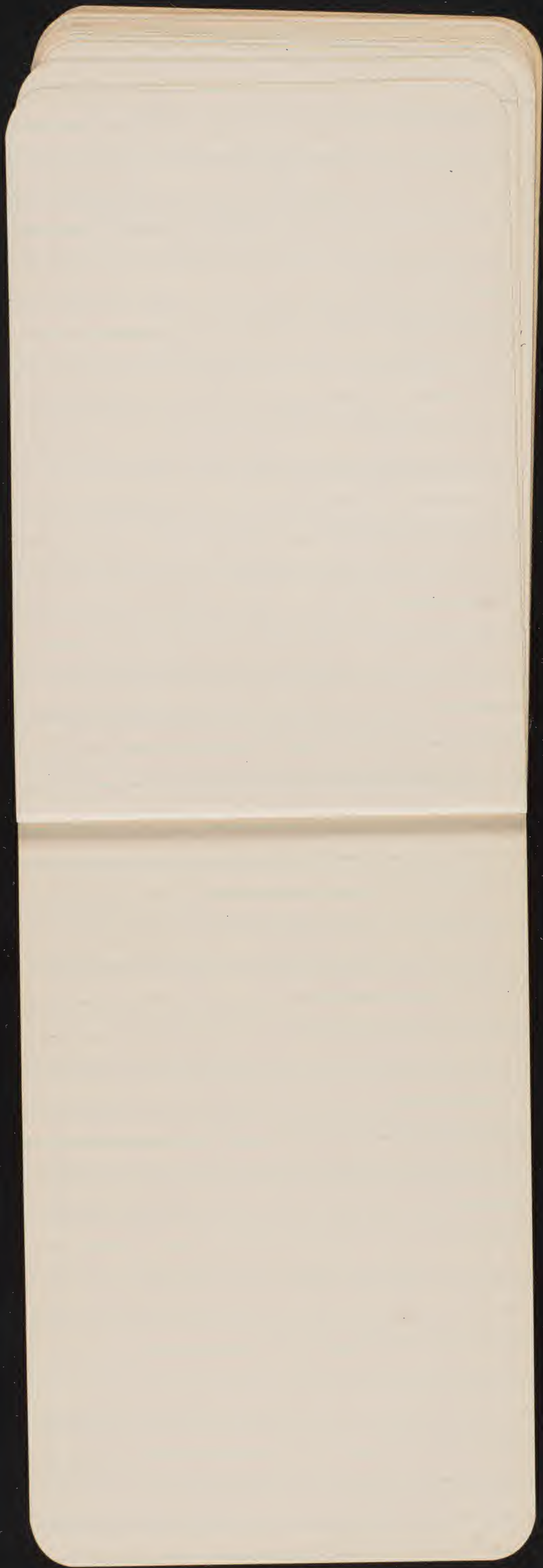
Herring Gull  
Ring bill "  
Philadelphia " (Bp.)  
Booby.  
Belted Thr. Lark  
Red " "  
Horned Grebe  
Black Scoter  
Wh. Wg. "



Hydric Actino-photometer

a disk with blue glass  
aperture - very good







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